

## R.S.V.P.

"R.S.V.P. stands for a French phrase, "répondez, s'il vous plaît," which means "please reply." The person sending the invitation would like you to tell him or her whether you accept or decline the invitation. That is, will you be coming to the event or not?"

When an invitation to an event is sent out, it is important to the one sending the invitation that a response is received; this is more so than for the one sending the reply. It goes without saying that this would be under normal circumstances. For the one from whom a reply is requested, is it that important that the reply be sent? If they choose to ignore the invitation and not send a reply, is there a consequence?

Perhaps you did not know it, but God sent you an invitation, an invitation with eternal consequences. Responding to the invitation in a positive manner assures the recipient a place in Heaven but, to decline the invitation or to just ignore it, well, it means spending eternity in the place the Bible calls the lake of fire. What might that invitation be? To repent of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, you trust Him as personal Saviour.

All people are born with a sin nature and, from that nature, the various acts of sin are done. In Romans, chapter one, God says just how vile and wicked mankind is and, then again, in Romans 3:10-18 even more of the human depravity is revealed. All of us inherited our sin nature from Adam when he disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden when he ate fruit from the forbidden tree {Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6. Adam was warned **NOT** to eat from that tree and, if he did, he would die. There are three kinds of death spoken of in the Bible: a spiritual death, physical death, and the second death. Adam immediately died spiritually and eventually he died physically. The "second death" spoken of is in Revelation 20:14 when unsaved people are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. This is all "bad news" but, there is good news to be shared. What might that good news be?

Even though God said that, "For the wages of sin is death;" He also said that, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." {Romans 6:23} It is not now nor has it ever been God's desire that anyone should pass into eternity without having Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. That is why Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, left the glory of Heaven and took to Himself the body of man, so that He could shed His blood and die on the Cross of Calvary as the full and final payment for our sin debt. {Matthew 1:21; John 1:29; 3:16} The whole purpose in Jesus coming was, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." {Luke 19:10} In the Old Testament when Israel rebelled against God poisonous serpents went through the camp biting and killing people, Moses was instructed to make serpent of brass and to put it on a pole where it could be seen. "And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." {Numbers 21:8-9} There was nothing special about the brass serpent; it was by faith and doing what God had said that saved them. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." {John 3:14-15}

On the Cross of Calvary Jesus shed His innocent blood and died; once and for all, our sin debt was paid in full. "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." {Hebrews 9:26} Jesus paid **THE** sacrifice, a sacrifice never to be repeated. At this very moment He is in Heaven on the right hand of God the Father. "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" {Hebrews 10:11;12}

The invitation that **REQUIRES** an answer is this: will **YOU** repent of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus, receive His as your personal Saviour? "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." {John 3:36} God promised that,

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {1 John 1:9}

The invitation is before you; how will you respond? If you say no to Jesus or just ignore His invitation to save you {ignoring is equivalent to saying no}, there will be no other alternative. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." {John 3:18}

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~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2017

All Scripture references are KJV